

has installed and provided solar energy technology to the Solomon Islands in hopes of improving the environment and livelihoods of their people. Taiwan has also set up an impressive medical mission in the Marshall Islands to treat the high prevalence of cataracts sufferers. In fact, our government will boost the overall effectiveness of our medical aid by initiating many more medical and public health missions that will target specific conditions and diseases common among the people of the Pacific island allies and friends. At the same time, after Taiwan effectively controlled the spread of the H1N1 Flu within our own borders, with a mortality rate of 2 deaths per million, which is only 1/3 of the average for OECD countries, I am proud to report that Taiwan will also be giving away locally manufactured vaccines worth 5 million U.S. dollars to other countries in need. Taiwan's search and rescue teams were also one of the first on the scenes when Haiti was hit by a devastating earthquake earlier this year. In addition to donating \$16 million worth in aid and funds, our government is also planning to set up medical and vocational training centers to train for hundreds of medical and skilled workers, and build 1,200 housing units. Also, as a sign of Taiwan's flourishing civil society, World Vision Taiwan has collected countless small donations from our people that will be sufficient to feed and save more than 8,000 homeless Haitian children and orphans. However, my administration realizes humanitarian relief is only a small part of the long and challenging road to full recovery. This is why we hope to continue the work we have started in integrating the advances we make in healthcare and green technology into our foreign aid framework, so that Taiwan can truly make a meaningful difference in the countries we help.

V. THE UNIVERSAL VALUE OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

However, coming back full circle, the search for a modern nation cannot merely lie upon the pillars of wealth and power. It is only under a true democracy that one's citizens can live without fear according to the law, and share in the burdens as well as benefits of good governance. Although Taiwan has made impressive sociopolitical progress over the last decades, it is still a young democracy. So, as firm champions for democracy, my administration will work to strengthen the democratic infrastructure of my country. Already we are taking tangible steps to enhance Taiwan's rule of law and protection of human rights in conformity with international standards. In the past year, we have ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), both administered by the United Nations. In converting these covenants into domestic law, they will certainly strengthen the human rights of our citizenry and further consolidate our rule of law. Furthermore, I came to power on the promise of combating corruption in elections and government, whereby we have already made meaningful progress. Without a doubt this goal will continue to be a cornerstone of my presidency, which I am determined to carry through in my capacity as the President of the country. I will assuredly not waver from the path in laying the foundations of a true democracy. In fact, next year in 2011 will be the Centennial Anniversary of the Republic of China. Against the background of thousands of years of Chinese history, the last century was in some ways merely a comma. But from a larger perspective, it was nothing short of an exclamation mark, as it has been 100 years of struggle; 100 years of experimen-

tation and 100 years of education before a people learned that they too have the unequivocal rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This nation-building process undoubtedly was achieved through the collective efforts of countless dedicated individuals who traversed between tradition and modernity that helped bridge the East to the West so many years ago. Inevitably, this made it possible for a people to aspire to the same democratic values as you cherish. From the chaos arising out of the turn of the 20th century, to the founding of the first republic in Asia in 1912 and its evolution forward in 1949 when the Republic of China Government moved to Taiwan, in 1987 when Taiwan lifted martial law, launched its democratic transformation, and subsequently allowed Taiwan residents to visit their relatives on the mainland, in 1996 when people on Taiwan directly elected its President for the first time, and in 2000 and 2008 when the Presidential elections further consolidated Taiwan's democracy through two rotations of power between political parties, the passage of these 100 years has irrevocably transformed the foundations of a political culture. Distinguished faculty members and students, ladies and gentlemen, as the elected president of the Republic of China, I will continue to strive toward forging Taiwan into an exemplary democracy; one that will be a source of inspiration and emulation for generations to come.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT MA'S CLOSING REMARKS

Dear distinguished faculty, students and friends; it is my great pleasure to hold this teleconference with you. Your questions and comments are very good, and some are very tough to answer, but in thinking and answering these questions you force me to think deeper and strive harder on the challenges that confront the road ahead.

Although today's conference is near an end, I am heartened by the thought that our friendship will continue to grow as there is still so much we need to do, together. The international system that the US forged out of the devastation of World War II 65 years ago has today become the enduring foundation of our global village. Being rule-based and sufficiently flexible, this system encourages positive-sum international cooperation rather than zero-sum interstate conflict. Hence, it changed the underlying dynamics of the world order that made it possible for countries, big or small, to prosper together. As a matter of fact, my idea to seek rapprochement with the mainland find some similarities with the ideas espoused by the American leaders in having soft talks with the Soviet Union and to have détente. In other words, to replace confrontation with negotiations; to solve international disputes through peaceful means. It is this very system that has interlocked the world into a community of thriving interdependence, giving rise to the possibility where foes can turn into friends, where every country can be a winner and every contribution become part of a greater picture.

This is also the system from which I draw my inspiration to lead my country, particularly in dealing with the mainland. In taking a responsible stake in the world, and in seeking rapprochement with the Chinese mainland, my administration has committed the Republic of China on Taiwan to becoming a dependable and valuable contributor to this international system. In my visit abroad last month, I kept saying to our friends or to the overseas Taiwanese and to members of my delegations, that what I tried to do as far as my country's foreign relations is concerned is to make Taiwan a respectable member of the international community. I want every

Taiwanese when they walk in the streets of New York, of Paris, of Sydney, of Beijing that they are respected. People will say they are from Taiwan, and that Taiwan is a respectful country in the world. Some in my domestic audience may disagree with me, but I firmly believe that this is the right path for Taiwan to avoid being marginalized from the forward march of the rest of the world. However, we will not merely concentrate on our own interests but equally apply our resources in hopes of having a positive impact on the world community. In fact, under this system that the United States started over half a century ago, we, as a whole, ought to be able to right what has gone wrong; to unite as one humanity against the global crises that threatens all that we hold dear, whether climate change, the global economic downturn, the risk of pandemics, or the wars that endanger the peace of our world. In the end, we are the only ones that can overcome the challenges we face. And in such an important partnership, I am confident Taiwan will be there to live up to its responsibilities.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO JIMMY WAYNE

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I want to take a moment of the Senate's time to recognize the leadership and contributions of Jimmy Wayne to the State of Tennessee and the United States of America for his remarkable efforts to combat homelessness.

Jimmy Wayne began his "Meet Me Halfway" on January 1, 2010. He plans to walk 1,660 miles from Nashville, TN, to Phoenix, AZ, to raise awareness about the plight of homeless youth in our country.

He knows firsthand about the challenges of being homeless. Jimmy is a product of the foster child system who grew up in a variety of foster homes, and he occasionally found himself homeless as a teen.

He was fortunate to be given a second chance at the age of 16 when Bea and Russell Costner gave him a home and a new start. They gave him a place to stay but only if he agreed to "meet them halfway," by following the rules of their house.

It is fitting that Jimmy Wayne is using his "Meet Me Halfway" campaign to not only raise awareness but to raise funds for organizations that benefit homeless youth. I thank Jimmy Wayne for his work, and I look forward to congratulating him once he finishes this campaign.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR DAVE MUNSON

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the lifetime of achievement by one of South Dakota's finest and most dedicated public servants. Dave Munson's distinguished tenure as mayor of South Dakota's largest city, Sioux Falls, followed a successful career in the financial industry and 24 years as an elected member of the South Dakota Legislature.